Making payment to the officers of Fertilizer Companies

1446. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the pay-scales revision of officers of fertilizer group of companies with effect from 1st of January, 1987 arrears on account of above revision of pay-scales have not been paid to all the FCI-NFL Fertilizer Group of companies, if so, the names of such companies and if so, the reasons for non-payment to officers;

(b) by when arrears would be paid;

(c) whether interest would be paid on this delayed payment; and

(d) the number of persons who retired during this period and the manner of making payment to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) Among the FCI NFL group of companies (i.e. Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Projects and Development India Limited and National Fertilizers Limited), the arrears on account of pay scale revision of officers have not been paid by FCI, HFC and PDIL. The non-payment of arrears by these companies is due to the acute financial problems that they are facing. They would be able to pay the arrears as soon as their financial position improves. No interest would, however, be paid on the delayed payment of arrears.

(d) In so far as RCF and NFL are concerned, all arrears on account of pay scale revision have been paid to all officers who have retired since 1-1-1987. In HCF, FCI and PDIL 912. 678 and 225 officers respectively have retired since 1-1-1987 (including voluntary retirement). FCI have made payment of arrears on account of pay revision in respect of all but 51 eligible cases of officers who have retired since 1-1-1987. While HFC have not been able to make payment of arrears to most of the retired officers, PDIL have not made any payment of arrears to the officers who have retired since 1-1-1987.

Free pricing of fertilizers

1447. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to allow free pricing of fertilizers and liberalise imports of raw material;

(b) whether the Committee appointed for the purpose has been given extension to submit its report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) There is no proposal, at present, with the Government to allow free pricing of fertilizers. However in so far as import of raw materials is concerned, it may be stated that import of raw materials like ammonia, phosphoric acid, rock phosphate and sulphur, has been recently de-canalised, allowing the units to import these items directly.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Parliamentary Committee appointed to go into the various aspects of fertilizer pricing and subsidy, were to make a report to the Speaker within six months. At the Committee's request the Speaker has extended time for submission of their report on or before the last day of the Monsoon Session, 1992 of the Parliament.

Paradeep Phosphates Limited

1448. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.